

E-001/M-91-297 ORDER CLOSING DOCKET

BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Darrel L. Peterson
Cynthia A. Kitlinski
Dee Knaak
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Don Storm

Chair
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner

In the Matter of a Petition by
Interstate Power Company to
Replace Mercury Vapor Units for
Street and Area Lighting

ISSUE DATE: January 9, 1992

DOCKET NO. E-001/M-91-297

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PROCEDURAL HISTORY

On April 15, 1991, Interstate Power Company (Interstate or the Company) filed a petition seeking Commission approval of several tariff changes. The proposed changes include the following:

1. Outdoor lighting service to customers illuminating their private properties. As of June 15, 1991, Interstate will begin installing not only sodium vapor (SV) units but also lighting units with equivalent or better energy efficiency;
2. Company-owned overhead street lighting provided to municipalities. As of June 15, 1991, Interstate will begin installing not only SV units but also lighting units with equivalent or better energy efficiency; Interstate proposes new rates to reflect newly available lighting alternatives; Interstate proposes the elimination of rates for fluorescent and incandescent units because there are no longer any such units on its overhead street lighting system;
3. Company-provided municipally-owned ornamental street lighting. As of June 15, 1991:
 - a. Interstate will install no new mercury vapor (MV) units;
 - b. Upon lamp or fixture failure of an incandescent unit, Interstate will provide the labor and materials for replacement of the necessary parts only if the municipality chooses to install SV lighting units or units of similar or better energy efficiency;
 - c. Upon lamp or fixture failure of a fluorescent unit, the Company will replace only the lamp for the unit.

The Company proposes new rates for this service, including a new Dusk-to-Midnight service option.

On August 15, 1991, Interstate filed a petition for a general rate increase. In the Matter of the Application of Interstate Power Company for Authority to Increase its Rates for Electric Service in the State of Minnesota, Docket No. E-001/GR-91-605. This general rate case is still pending.

On November 15, 1991, the Department of Public Service (the Department) filed a report in the current docket. The Department recommended that the docket be closed and consideration of the matter deferred to the general rate proceeding.

The matter came before the Commission for consideration on December 30, 1991.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

The Commission supports the concept of encouraging customer use of energy efficient lighting units. Interstate's proposed tariff and rate changes, however, will best be viewed in the context of the Company's general rate proceeding. Examining the Company's proposals in the general rate case will avoid unnecessary duplication of time and effort for the Department and the Commission. Viewing the Company's proposed rates in the context of the rate proceeding will help ensure that the rates are just and reasonable. The Commission will close the current docket and consider Interstate's proposed rate and tariff revisions as part of the pending general rate case.

ORDER

1. Docket No. E-001/M-91-297 is closed. Interstate's rate and tariff revisions proposed in that docket will be considered in the Company's general rate proceeding, Docket No. E-001/GR-91-605.
2. This Order shall become effective immediately.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Richard R. Lancaster
Executive Secretary

(S E A L)